THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE authorities of the British Museum are to be congratulated on the thorough and admirable manner in which the scheme for the electric lighting of the galleries has been carried out. Everyone present at the private view on Tuesday evening was pleased with the results which had been achieved. Both arc and glow lamps are employed; the former in the galleries on the ground floor containing Greek and Roman sculpture, the Elgin marbles, and Assyrian and other antiquities, and in some galleries on the upper floor. The suite of bronze and vase rooms on the west, and the ethnographical gallery on the east, of the upper floor are lighted by glow lamps. The light from glow lamps is more agreeable to the eyes than the more powerful light of arc illuminants; but these have been regulated with the utmost care, and on Tuesday evening there was a very general feeling that the beauties of the sculpture were brought out by them more effectually than by such daylight as is at times rendered possible by our northern climate. With regard to the arc lights on the upper floor, it was noticed that they were admirably adapted for the exhibition of the Japanese drawings, even the minutest details of these delicately finished works being rendered plainly visible without any diminution of the beauty of the colours.

We quote from the *Times* of January 29 the following description:—

"In the galleries on the ground floor there are 69 arc lamps of various powers, while on the upper floor there are 57 arc and 627 glow lamps. In addition to these there are five large arc lamps in the reading-room, six in the court-yard, and upwards of 200 glow lamps in the offices and passages. The total current required to work the whole of the lamps is nearly 1200 amperes, with an E.M.F. of 115 volts at the lamp terminals; and this output is produced by the expenditure of nearly 200 brake-horse-power. The current is generated by four Siemens dynamo machines, each capable of giving an output of 450 amperes and 130 volts, which are connected to a general switchboard in the engine-room by means of which they can be put to work in parallel to any or all of the circuits. The switchboard is fitted with instruments indicating the current given off by each dynamo and four circuits are led from it round the Museum—two for the upper and two for the lower floor. The main wires are laid outside the building. In order to insure safety, and to guard, as far as possible, against failure of light, the motive power is in duplicate. The four dynamos are driven in pairs, each pair by a separate engine with a separate countershaft. Each engine has a separate steampipe in direct communication with the boilers, and there is an ample reserve of boiler power The power of the engines and dynamos is so adjusted that each of the two sets is capable of working the whole of the lamps in those galleries proposed to be lighted on any one evening; the other set standing by ready to work. Further, in order to work if required, at half-power, or in order to provide half-light for the whole of the galleries—which light should suffice for an emergency such as sudden fog or accident—the lamps are connected in pairs alternately, so that half of the number being cut off, the light of the other half still remains evenly distributed. The engines have been supplied and erected by Messrs. Marshall, Sons, and Co. (Limited), of Gainsborough, and the electrical work has been executed by Messrs. Siemens Brothers and Co. (Limited)."

The eastern and western portions of the Museum will be open to the public on alternate week-day evenings, and all the world agrees with the *Times* that "the educational value of the unique collections of art and scientific treasures the Museum contains will be greatly enhanced by the change."

NOTES.

THE Medals and Funds to be given at the anniversary meeting of the Geological Society on February 21 have been awarded by the Council as follows: the Wollaston Medal to Prof. William Crawford Williamson, F.R.S.; the Murchison Medal to Prof. Edward Hull, F.R.S.; and the Lyell Medal to Prof. Thomas Rupert Jones, F.R.S.; the balance of the Wollaston Fund to Mr. W. E. A. Ussher, of the Geological Survey of England; that of the Murchison Fund to Mr. Edward Wethered; that of the Lyell Fund to Mr. C. Davies Sherborn; and a portion of the Barlow-Jameson Fund to Mr. William Jerome Harrison.

THE Council of the Royal Meteorological Society have arranged to hold at 25 Great George Street, Westminster, on March 18 to 21 next, an Exhibition of Instruments and Photographs illustrating the application of photography to meteorology. The Exhibition Committee invite co-operation, as they are anxious to obtain as large a collection as possible. They will also be glad to show any new meteorological instruments or apparatus invented, or first constructed, since last March; as well as photographs and drawings possessing meteorological interest. Anyone willing to co-operate in the proposed Exhibition should furnish the assistant secretary (not later than February 12) with a list of the articles he will be able to contribute and an estimate of the space they will require.

THE second course of the Gifford Lectures at Glasgow will begin on February 5. As announced in the first course, these lectures will treat of what Prof. Max Müller calls "Physical Religion," or the belief in natural, sub-natural, and super-natural powers, discovered in some of the great phenomena of Nature.

SOME most interesting notes on the last days of Father Perry are contributed to the *Tablet* of January 25 by Father Strickland, S.J. The facts stated by the writer bring out in a very striking light the earnest and resolute spirit in which, to the end of his life, Father Perry devoted himself to science. During the voyage he suffered badly from sea-sickness, and on his arrival at the Isles de Salût he was "much done up." Nevertheless, he allowed himself no rest, but landed at once to view the site and introduce himself to the authorities. Captain Atkinson urged him to live on board the *Comus* and land each morning for his work; and Father Strickland is of opinion that if he had done this "his life would not have been sacrificed to his over-anxious desire to do everything for the best for the success of the work confided to him." He preferred, however, to take up his quarters in the hospital, and said nothing about the fact that he was in bad health, making "light of all his personal wants for fear of giving trouble to others." The observatory erected for the occasion was half a mile from the hospital, and "the intervening ground was very rough, being a steep descent and ascent, and the distance was gone over on foot four times each day in fair weather or foul." "On the Friday before the eclipse Father Perry complained of being 'very bad inside,' but he worked on until nearly 3 a.m., and when the men retired to the *Comus* he tried to snatch a little rest where he was, and lay down in a hammock in the tent. He was up again before 6 o'clock to take the position of the sun at rising. At 6.45 the men arrived from the ship, and at 7.30 there was a complete, most careful, and most successful rehearsal of all the operations and duties which were to be performed next morning in the solemn moments of the eclipse, for which they had been preparing so long and had travelled so far. Everyone was surprised at Father Perry's exactitude in contributing to carry out his own orders and his courage in facing fatigue. His readiness to sacrifice himself and his own convenience in order to save trouble to others endeared him to all who worked with him, and challenged their utmost efforts to secure success for their work in spite of the oppressive climate and surroundings. Just before noon on Saturday, Lieutenant Thierns went to see him at the hospital and found him much exhausted; but he was again at his post in the observatory at 3 p.m., at which time an important photograph was secured with the mirror. In the evening he went on board the *Comus* for dinner, but was only able to lie on a sofa all the time; and he sent to the doctor for some chlorodyne. Much against the wishes and earnest advice of Captain Atkinson (who spoke to me of Father Perry with the sincerest regard and esteem), Father Perry made his way on shore in a violent pouring rain to sleep in his own quarters, and would allow no one to hinder him. Next morning, Sunday the 22nd, was the important moment of the eclipse. Lieutenant Thierns landed with his observatory party at six o'clock, and on arrival was informed by Mr. Rooney that Father Perry had passed a very bad night and was very ill, so a man was sent to help him over the bad half mile from his quarters, as he declined to let himself be carried on a stretcher. He reached the observatory in good time, though in a very exhausted state. As the important moment approached, he seemed to rally, and, during the minutes of the eclipse, seemed to be himself again, and showed no signs of illness or exhaustion. There were two photographic instruments in use—one an old one, which had often been in use before, the other was the special new corona graphic instrument prepared for the occasion, of which Father Perry himself took charge. He was so alert and self-possessed during the eclipse, that his friends about him hoped he was not so ill, but he gave way immediately after, and with much difficulty reached his quarters in the hospital. It was known after, that during the previous night he had been very seriously ill." On Sunday night it became evident that he was suffering from the very worst form of dysentery. On Wednesday, Christmas Day, he was better, and the vessel started for Demerara. All hope was gone on Friday at 1.30 p.m. At 3 p.m. his mind began to wander, and at 4.20 he died. It is pathetic to read that before he quite lost consciousness he thought himself again engaged in "the supreme moment of the scientific mission which had so long filled his thoughts," and "began to give his orders as during the short minutes of the eclipse."

At its annual sitting, the Russian Academy of Sciences elected the following as Corresponding Members:—In Mathematics, Prof. Sophie Kovalevskaya, Stockholm; in Astronomy, Prof. Moris Lœwy, Paris; in Chemistry, Prof. Stanislas Cannizaro, Rome; in Biology, Th. Keppen, Russia, and Prof. Henri Baillon, Paris.

The Sanitary Institute has made arrangements for the ninth course of lectures and demonstrations for sanitary officers. They will be given in the Parkes Museum, and will be specially adapted for candidates preparing for the Institute's examination for inspectors of nuisances. The introductory lecture will be delivered on February 18 by Mr. E. C. Robins. Among the lecturers will be Sir Douglas Galton and Prof. W. H. Corfield. The former will lecture on ventilation, measurement of cubic space, &c; the latter on sanitary appliances.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. are issuing a monograph of the British Cicadæ, by George Bowdler Buckton, F.R.S. It will consist of eight quarterly parts, each containing on an average ten litho-chromo plates and letterpress, illustrating the forms, metamorphoses, general anatomy, and the chief details connected with the life-history of this family of insects. The work will contain also short diagnoses of all the British species, about 230 in number, most of which have come under the author's notice, each species being illustrated by one or more coloured drawings. Some account will be given of the curious myths and tales told by ancient Greek and Latin poets, and descriptions will be appended relating to the curious sound-organs possessed by some species, and other subjects connected with the economy of this interesting but difficult group of Rhynchotous insects.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have in the press a "Manual of Public Health," by Mr. Wynter Blyth, M.R.C.S., Medical Officer of Health for St. Marylebone.

Malta has suffered a great loss in the almost sudden death of Dr. Gulia, Professor of Botany, Hygiene, and Forensic Medicine in the Royal University of Valletta. He was born, in 1835, at Cospicua, a suburb of Valletta, where his father was a physician. He graduated in medicine and surgery, in 1855, at Valletta, and afterwards went to complete his studies at Paris, where he made the acquaintance of a large number of eminent men, including Milne-Edwards, Blanchard, and Vidal. On his return to reside in his native town, he was elected to the above-mentioned Chair in the University in Valletta. Besides attending to his professorial duties and the requirements of a large medical practice, Prof. Gulia found time to edit an important medical journal, in which he exhibited great literary and scientific talents. He also issued, among other writings, a "Flora of Malta." His son is about to publish his last work, containing the completest account of the flora of Malta up to the present time, bringing the total number of species up to 833.

At a meeting of the Society of Arts, last week, Mr. Brudenell Carter read a valuable paper on "Vision-testing for Practical Purposes." Referring to colour blindness, Mr. Carter said that Dr. Joy Jeffries, in the last edition of his work on the subject, tabulates the results of the examination of 175,127 persons, and shows that the percentage of this number who were colour blind amounted to 3·95. Any method of examination which gives a percentage differing from this in any marked degree must, Mr. Carter thinks, be vitiated by some error. Of the methods of examination pursued on the English and Scottish lines of railway, and by the Board of Trade, he said they had one feature in common—they were all wrong, "the direct offspring, in almost every instance, of a degree of ignorance and presumption, the very existence of which would be incredible if the proofs of it were not brought daily under our observation." "Even where the use of Holmgren's method is professed," said Mr. Carter, "the rules laid down by Holmgren for conducting it are, as a rule, utterly ignored, and the results obtained are as utterly misleading. The test should be used in exact conformity with his very detailed and precise instructions, or it should not be used at all."

The first of a series of Friday evening lectures on Astronomy was delivered on Friday, the 24th instant, by Mr. E. J. C. Morton, at the Battersea Public Baths. An audience numbering over 400 assembled, and manifested much interest in the subject with which Mr. Morton dealt. The lectures are being given in connection with the University Extension Scheme.

The following science lectures will be given at the Royal Victoria Hall during February: 4th, "Algeria and Morocco," by Mr. Henry Blackburn; 11th, "Arsenic," by Mr. Ward Coldridge; 18th, "Eyesight and Some of its Defects," by Dr. Collins; 25th, "Sinai and Palestine," by Sir Charles Wilson.

The third series of lectures given by the Sunday Lecture Society will begin on Sunday afternoon, February 2, in St. George's Hall, Langham Place, at 4 p.m., when Dr. B. W. Richardson, F.R.S., will lecture on "The Health of the Mind; and Mental Contagions." Lectures will subsequently be given by Sir Henry E. Roscoe, M.P., F.R.S., Mr. Justin H. McCarthy, M.P., Mr. G. Wotherspoon, Mr. H. L. Brækstad, Mr. Louis Fagan, and Dr. James Edmunds.

Great efforts are being made to secure that the eleventh meeting of the National Electric Light Association, to be held at Kansas City from February 11 to 14, shall be, as *Science* puts it, "one of the most interesting conventions ever held." Those who propose to go to Kansas from New York may look forward to a pleasant journey. A vestibule train, to be called the Electric Limited, is to run through without change to Kansas City *viâ* Chicago and the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. The committee making the necessary arrangements feels confident that this train will be "the finest ever run out of New York." It will be composed of the latest Pullman vestibule sleeping-cars, lighted by electricity, a dining-car, composite car containing barber shop, bath room, card room, library, writing desk, smoking room, &c., and an observation car with a large open room luxuriously furnished, as well as an observation platform. The train will be supplied throughout with fixed and portable electric lamps.

HERR TRAUTWEILER thinks that a railway should go to the top of the Jungfrau, and in the *Schweizerische Bauzeitung* gives a brief account of his scheme. The railway would go from the valley below to the summit, and would be almost entirely underground. There would be several intermediate stations, from which convenient, well-arranged tunnels would lead to points on the mountain whence the best views are to be had. If stormy weather came on, the passengers could withdraw into the shelter of those tunnels. The railway would be lighted by electricity.

THE following is translated from a notice published by the authorities of the Madrid Observatory :—"D. Ernesto Caballero, Professor of Physics, and director of the electric lighting manufactory in Pontevedra, writes to this Observatory, giving details of a remarkable meteorological phenomenon which appeared at 9.15 p.m. on the 2nd inst. In a sky serene and clear, there appeared suddenly a globe or ball of fire of the apparent size of an orange, which after falling (it is not possible to well indicate how or from whence) upon the conducting wires stretched across the city, entered the manufactory (referred to) by a skylight or window, struck the apparatus for distributing the light, from which (after raising the armature of a magnetic current closer) it struck the dynamo at work. In the presence of the alarmed engineer and workmen present it rebounded twice from the dynamo to the conductor, and from the conductor to the dynamo, then fell and burst with a sharp and clear detonation into a multitude of fragments, without producing any harm or leaving any trace of its mysterious existence. In various parts of the city the lights swiftly oscillated and were extinguished for some seconds, and that the darkness was not general and long continued was owing to the admirable self-possession of the *employés*, who almost instantly established the order of things so suddenly and strangely interrupted by this mysterious meteor, of whose action and presence there only remained traces on the melted (or soldered) edges of the thick copper plates belonging to the armature of the circuit closer. Outside the building, and at the moment of falling upon the conducting wires, it was seen by (among others) the Professor of Natural History, Señor Garcéran, and from various effects observed on the wires during the following day there were undoubted manifestations (in no other way explicable) of its electrical origin."

THE second part of a voluminous bibliography of meteorology prepared by Brigadier-General Greely, Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army, and edited by Oliver L. Fassig, has been issued, and consists of a classed catalogue of printed literature relating to moisture, from the origin of printing to the close of 1881. The whole literature included is divided into 22 subdivisions, a comprehensive classification which will be highly appreciated. A section is devoted to rainfall in general, others to distribution and variation of rainfall, others to heavy rainfall and drought, and so on throughout the whole work. A division on "Showers of Miscellaneous Matter," though not properly a part of the subject, has been deemed of sufficient interest in connection with the general subject of precipitation to be included within this volume. Although supplements to Part I. Temperature, and Part II. Moisture, may appear later, it is to be regretted that it will be impracticable for any other part of this bibliography to be issued from the Signal Office.

IN *Petermann's Mitteilungen* for December last, Dr. R. Spitaler has an instructive paper on the temperature "anomalies" of the surface of the earth in January and July, with charts showing those districts which are too warm (in positive anomaly) or too cold (in negative anomaly), compared with the normal values of their geographical positions. Such charts were first drawn by Dove; but as the materials at the disposal of Dr. Spitaler are much better than those which Prof. Dove possessed, the charts differ in several important particulars. The influence of the warm and cold ocean-currents upon the temperature anomaly is very clearly shown. Europe, for instance, being under the influence of the Gulf Stream and south-west winds, is always in positive anomaly, whereas Central Asia is a district which has in winter 24° C. of negative anomaly, while in summer it has 6° of positive anomaly, or of greater heat than the same latitude in Europe. The July chart shows in the northern hemisphere two decided maxima of positive anomaly, and two minima, while in the southern hemisphere, owing to the less amount of land, the anomaly is much smaller. In July the continents of the northern hemisphere are almost entirely in positive anomaly, while the whole of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and Central America are in negative anomaly.

IN the current number of the Journal of the Anthropological Institute there is a valuable paper, by Dr. Arthur Thomson, on the Veddahs of Ceylon. Discussing the affinities of the Veddahs, he says there appears to be little doubt that if they be not of the same stock as the so-called aborigines of Southern India they at least present very strong points of resemblance as regards stature, proportions of limbs, cranial capacity, and form of skull. The similarities of hair and colour between these races have often been remarked, so that, on the whole, if physical features alone be taken into account, Dr. Thomson thinks the affinities of the Veddahs with the hill tribes of the Nilgherries and the natives of the Coromandel coast, and the country near Cape Comorin, are fairly well proved.

MR. H. B. BASHORE sends to *Science* sketches of an interesting Indian pipe. It is made of dark green steatite, carved into an admirable image of a turtle, and represents, no doubt, one of the Delaware totems. The back of the animal is well polished and distinctly marked with lines, and the hole for the stem is well drilled, and of a smooth bore. This relic was found thirty years ago on the site of what is now the village of Fairview, on the Susquehanna, close to an old Indian burying-ground.

THE Punjab Government is obtaining a number of young olive trees from Italy, and proposes to find out by experiment whether the low hills below Murree in the Rawul Pindi district are suitable for olive cultivation.

THE Laccadive Islands have been suffering severely from a plague of rats. According to the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times*, these invaders have destroyed the cocoanut plantations and reduced the islanders to a state of destitution.

MR. R. M. JOHNSTON lately called the attention of the Royal Society of Tasmania to the extreme variability of the genus *Unio*, inhabiting the northern rivers of Tasmania. The shell seems to be capable of a remarkable number of modifications with regard both to form and colour. This, Mr. Johnston says, is more particularly the case if specimens marking different stages of growth are compared with each other. In specimens marking seven stages of growth, the variation in form—from youth to the adult stage—embraces characteristics covering "most of the distinctions upon which many of the Australian forms mainly depend for the recognition of distinct specific rank." Such being the variability of local form in the individuals of the various stages of growth, Mr. Johnston thinks there is good reason for the belief that the several forms erected into specific ranks in various parts of Australia may prove to be local varieties, or particular stages of growth of one widely distributed species.

THE destruction of the native opossum is attracting some attention in Tasmania. It is said that about 75 per cent. of the animals killed have had young in the pouch at the time. The opossum has great commercial value, and there seems to be a general opinion that it ought to be efficiently protected.

IN the third report of the Liverpool Marine Biological Station on Puffin Island, Prof. W. A. Herdman gives a concise and interesting account of much good work done during the past year. In the autumn the station was closed, but it will be reopened at the beginning of either April or May, and Prof. Herdman has no doubt that next summer all the different lines of investigation hitherto started will be followed up with a renewed enthusiasm which will more than make up for the loss of the winter observations.

THE *Annuaire de l'Académie Royale de Belgique* for the current year contains the usual information about the Academy and the awards of the various prizes. There is little to interest non-members except the series of biographies and portraits of former distinguished members, including Houzeau.

DR. C. HART MERRIAM, chief of division of ornithology and mammalogy, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has issued a series of directions for the measurement of small mammals and the preparation of museum skins. The directions are accompanied by an illustration, showing the appearance of a well made skin.

MR. DE ZILVA WICKREMASINGHE, assistant librarian of the Colombo Museum, has compiled a valuable list of the "Pansiyapanas Játaka," the 550 birth stories of Gautama Buddha. In order to make the record complete the compiler consulted many old manuscripts belonging to temple libraries in various parts of Ceylon. The list has been published in the Journal of the Ceylon branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, and is also printed separately.

SOLUTIONS to the questions in Pure Mathematics, Stages I. and II., set at the May examinations of the Science and Art Department from 1881 to 1886, have been published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall in book form. Each of the questions has been fully worked out, and together they make a useful series of examples in elementary mathematics.

MESSRS. DULAU AND CO. have issued a catalogue of works relating to cryptogamic botany.

WE have to acknowledge receipt of £2, sent by Mrs. Morton Sumner towards the payment of the debt on the laboratories of Bedford College, to which we called attention last week.

AN interesting paper is contributed by Prof. Carnelley to the *Philosophical Magazine* for January, in which he attempts to express the periodic law of the chemical elements by means of an algebraic formula. For reasons which are given in detail in the memoir, an expression of the form $A = c(m + \sqrt{v})$ is adopted, where A represents the atomic weight of the element, c a constant, m a member of a series in arithmetical progression, depending upon the horizontal series in the periodic table to which the element belongs, and v the maximum valency or the number of the vertical group of which the element is a member. From a number of approximations, Prof. Carnelley finds that m is best represented by the value 0 in the lithium-beryllium-boron &c., horizontal row, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in the sodium series, 5 in the potassium series, and $8\frac{1}{2}$, 12, $15\frac{1}{2}$, 19, $22\frac{1}{2}$, &c, in the subsequent rows. Thus m is a member of an arithmetical series of which the common difference is $2\frac{1}{2}$ for the first three members, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ for all the rest. On calculating the values of the constant c from the equation $c = \dfrac{A}{m + \sqrt{v}}$ for 55 of the elements, the numbers are all found to lie between 6·0 and 7·2 with a mean value of 6·6 In by far the majority of cases the value is much closer to the mean 6·6 than is represented by the two extreme limits, thus in 35 cases the values lie between 6·45 and 6·75. If the number 6·6, therefore, is adopted as the value of c, and the atomic weights of the elements are then calculated from the formula $A = 6{\cdot}6(m + \sqrt{v})$, the calculated atomic weights thus obtained approximate much more closely to the experimental atomic weights than do the numbers derived from an application of the atomic heat approximation of Dulong and Petit. The number 6·6 at once strikes one as being remarkably near to the celebrated 6·4 of Dulong and Petit, and Prof. Carnelley draws the conclusion that there must be a connection between the two. This assumption appears to be supported by the following interesting facts. If we assume c to represent the atomic heat, then atomic weight = atomic heat × $(m + \sqrt{v})$ = atomic weight × specific heat × $(m + \sqrt{v})$; or specific heat $= \dfrac{1}{m + \sqrt{v}}$. On calculating the specific heats of the elements from this equation, they are found to agree remarkably well with the experimental values, except in those cases in which the observed specific heat is known to be abnormal. Again, Bettone has shown that the hardness of the elements is inversely proportional to their specific volumes. If this be so, hardness $= \dfrac{\text{specific gravity}}{6{\cdot}6(m + \sqrt{v})}$; and, on calculating the hardness from this formula, the numbers are again found to agree very closely with the hardness experimentally determined by Bettone. That the periodic law may therefore be approximately expressed by a formula of the type $A = c(m + \sqrt{v})$ appears very probable, and that the number 6·6 is a very close approximation to the value of c appears also to be established. Moreover, the fact that m in the even series represents a whole number, while in the odd series it represents a whole number and a half, corresponds to the well-known difference in chemical properties between the members of these series; and the assumption that the common difference between the first three values of m is only $2\frac{1}{2}$, while between all the rest it is $3\frac{1}{2}$, is borne out by Mendeleeff's statement that the elements of the lithium and sodium rows are more or less exceptional in their nature, and not strictly comparable with the subsequent series.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include two Brown Capuchins (*Cebus fatuellus* ♂ ♂) from Paraguay, presented by Mr. E. Malateste; a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus* ♀) from India, presented by Miss Alice Booth; a Macaque Monkey (*Macacus cynomolgus* ♂) from India, presented by Mr. C. Harris; a Green Monkey (*Cercopithecus callitrichus* ♂) from West Africa, presented by Quarter-Master Serjeant Mathison, W.I.R.; a Silver Pheasant (*Euplocamus nycthemerus* ♂) from China, presented by Mr. W. R Rootes; a Malbrouck Monkey (*Cercopithecus cynosurus* ♂) from Rorke's Drift, South Africa, a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus* ♀) from India, deposited.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

OBJECTS FOR THE SPECTROSCOPE.

Sidereal Time at Greenwich at 10 p.m. on January 30 = 6h. 40m. 20s.